

# THE JOHNSON CITY COMET

Thirty-Third Year.

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1916.

Whole Number 1672

## Death Toll Increases Fifteen Million Property Damage

Railroads and Telegraphic Communications Still Demoralized and Further Reports may Increase Both Loss of Life and Property Damage.

Fifteen persons dead, at least ten missing and property damage estimated at around \$15,000,000 is the known toll of the floods which have raged in five southern states for the past forty-eight hours.

Although the waters are receding in nearly all districts, railroad and telegraphic communication still are demoralized and reports from towns and villages now isolated may increase both the number of deaths and the property loss.

North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and West Virginia all suffered heavy damage from the overflowing streams, swollen by torrential rains which followed last week's hurricane as it swept inland from the coast, but the heaviest loss was in North Carolina, where eleven of the twelve deaths are reported and where two-thirds of the material damage was done.

### LIST OF KNOWN DEAD

Edna, N. C., Township. Asheville 2. Biltmore 4. Alexander county 3. Marshall 3. Radford, Va., 1. All but one of the dead were white.

### MISSING

Ten Southern railway construction men who went down with the Southern bridge near Charlotte.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE IN VARIOUS STATES

The property damage is summarized from the latest reports as follows:

#### NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville—25 industrial plants destroyed, including cotton and lumber mills, machine shops and coal and feed yards. Sixty residences in the lower part of the city was washed away and 400 persons homeless with 1,200 out of employment. Power and gas plants out of commission.

Charlotte—One million cotton spindles idle as a result of flooded power plants. Street cars at a standstill and city in darkness.

Monbo—Monbo Cotton mills demolished. East Monbo, cotton mills damaged and \$50,000 worth of cotton destroyed.

Alexander County—Alspaugh cotton mills washed away. Lileton cotton mills damaged.

Buncombe—Henderson and Madison counties, many mills damaged and hundreds of persons out of employment.

Statesville—Brick plant destroyed and Long Island Cotton mills nearly damaged.

Catawba county—Cotton warehouse with 1,500 bales of cotton carried away. In this county as well as in Iredell and Alexander great damage was done to crops and small mills.

Bilmore—Many persons driven from their homes and crops in surrounding territory damaged.

Marshall—Fifty-three homes destroyed.

onesville—Many homes flooded.

Hendersonville—Two dams washed out, damage to mills and to crops in Henderson county.

Lexington—Several lumber mills in surrounding country carried away, stock killed and crops destroyed.

Cleveland county—Drove power dam near Shelby destroyed; crops in county damaged.

The flooded Yadkin river has destroyed all communication into Wilkes county. At Elkin, a town of 2,000 population, \$200,000 damage was done. In the county the loss is estimated as high as \$3,000,000. Many manufacturing plants have been submerged and Southern railway stations all along the line are said to be flooded to a depth of from five to fifteen feet. Many bridges have been washed away.

Five highway bridges, three in Mecklenburg county and one near Statesville at another near Mooresville, are known to have been washed away, while at least six railway bridges were destroyed.

The Southern railway lost a bridge near Mout Holly, another near Rock Hill, another near Salisbury and an Air Line bridge just above Belmont is gone as the result of the Piedmont & Northern Electric line bridge nearby.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

Crops badly damaged throughout

Piedmont section and several railway bridges, including the Southern bridge at Alston, washed away.

Portman—Southern Power company's plant shut down, cutting off the power to Greenville and many cotton mills.

Georgetown—Warehouse and stores on water front and two lumber mills damaged. Seaboard Air Line tracks washed out for short distance.

#### VIRGINIA

Radford, several buildings destroyed and crops in nearby counties damaged.

Four Norfolk & Western bridges, on the Galax branch, one on Little Creek extension, Pepper bridge near Radford and another bridge near Pearisburg washed away. Damage in the Pearisburg district alone estimated at a million dollars.

Washout 250 feet long on Virginia Railway near Eggleston.

The small town of Narrows is reported completely submerged.

#### TENNESSEE

Newport—partly inundated and many families forced from their homes.

Butler—Virginia and Southwestern railway bridge washed away.

Thousands of acres of corn and peanuts inundated between Chattanooga and Paducah, Ky., on Tennessee river and much crop damage around Dandridge.

The Tennessee river is reported still rising and other damage is expected from overflows at several points.

All railroads in Eastern Tennessee suffered heavily from washed out bridges and culverts.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Crops damaged along Kanawha river and some damage to railways by washouts and bridges carried away.

FLOOD TOLL IN AND AROUND ASHEVILLE

As nearly as could be estimated the net results of the flood in Asheville and vicinity Sunday were:

Six lives lost.

Sixty residences washed away.

Four hundred people homeless.

Twelve hundred without employment.

Complete tie-up of railroad traffic with one exception.

Property loss \$10,000,000.

Workers in cotton mills and lumber plants in Buncombe, Henderson and Madison counties are being cared for here.

#### FRENCH BROAD HIGH

Newport, Tenn., July 18.—Following the heavy rains in the mountains east of here, the French Broad river rose so rapidly that lives and property in this section were endangered Sunday.

The river at Newport last night registered more than twenty feet and was still rising.

A. C. Hampton and J. T. Huff were forced from their homes. The river rose to a height of several feet in the Huff home.

Dolph Moorefield and his brother are reported marooned on the farm of Mrs. Dave Robinson, near Newport. It is said they were caught on the river and were surrounded by water on account of the rapid rise. It is said that they are saving themselves only by clinging to trees. They had been there in trees awaiting the arrival of persons with boats to rescue them.

#### DAMAGE IN EAST TENNESSEE

Elizabethton, Tenn., July 17.—Upper East Tennessee felt the effects of the severe storm that swept the eastern coast. The Watanga river overflowed and did considerable damage to the lowlands, washing away some hay and grain that remained in the fields, and damaged corn crops to a small extent. The V. & S. W. railway in Johnson county was damaged to some extent, especially at Butler, where the approaches to the railroad bridge were swept out and some track washed out. Also to some extent the railroad was damaged at Slam.

Our job department is complete in every detail, and we have men of experience in that special department. Give us a trial.

### RURAL CREDITS BILL IS SIGNED AMID APPLAUSE

Washington, July 17.—President Wilson today signed the rural credits bill passed by congress. A group of senators, representatives and office staffs warmly as Mr. Wilson affixed his signature.

Just before signing the measure, which creates a system of twelve land loan banks under the direction of a federal board, the president made a short address pointing out the benefits farmers and investors would enjoy. "In signing this bill," said the president, "I have not only a feeling of profound satisfaction, but of real gratitude that we have completed this piece of legislation, which I hope will be immensely beneficial to the farmers of the country. The farmers, it seems to me, have occupied hitherto a singular position of disadvantage. They have not had the same freedom to get credit on their real estate that others have had who were in manufacturing and commercial enterprises, and while they have sustained our life, they did not in the same degree with others share in the benefits of that life.

"Therefore this bill, along with the liberal provisions of the federal reserve act, puts them on an equality with all others who have genuine assets, and make the great credit of the country available to them. One can not but feel that this is delayed justice to them. Incidentally it will be of advantage to the investing community, for I can imagine a more satisfactory and solid investments than this system will afford those who have money to use."

The president used two pens in signing the bill, and gave one of them to Senator Fletcher, of Florida, who asked permission to present it to the Southern Commercial congress.

In addition to the number of members of the house and senate the signing was witnessed by David Lubin, one of the originators of the bill and representatives of the National Grange, the Farmers Educational Co-operative union, the Ancient Order of Gleaners, the Farmers' National congress and National Council of Farmers' Co-operation association. Secretary McAdoo conferred with the president later on selection of members of the new farm board who will be appointed in the near future. Under those reported to be under consideration for membership on the board are Herbert Quick, W. W. Flanagan, secretary of the joint congressional committee on rural credits; F. J. H. von Engelken, of Florida; C. B. Kegley, of Washington state; R. M. Johnston, of L. B. Clure, of Indiana; J. L. Coulter, of West Virginia; and H. A. Moientah, of Wisconsin. Secretary is an ex-officio member and four will be appointed by the president.

### FALL BRANCH ITEMS

Dr. White's little child has flux and is not expected to live.

T. S. Evans is very ill with tuberculosis.

Miss Elsie Baskette is at home from the State Normal, and has her friends, Miss Paugh, of Virginia, and Miss Wine, of Fall Branch, visiting her.

Miss Nita Moulton has returned from a visit to relatives at Bristol. Mr. and Mrs. T. J. McCrary and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Lady were in Bristol Saturday.

Rev. N. F. Walker, of Johnson City, was in our village for a few days last week.

Guy V. Barnes has gone on a vacation trip in Cooke county.

Earnest McCrary has typhoid fever. Mrs. R. H. Shepherd and children have returned from a week's visit to relatives in Greene county.

Miss Nita Moulton has as her guest Miss Mary Shaffer, of Johnson City. Little Marbeth Shepherd is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. M. J. Shepherd.

Dr. S. L. Smith has a new girl at his home. It is No. 2.

5 miles east of Elizabethton.

The immense concrete dam in the "Horse Shoe" that furnishes the power for Elizabethton, Bristol, etc., stood the severe test an dremains as firm as ever, though the water ran into the power house and damaged the machinery to some extent.

Elizabethton was not damaged any, notwithstanding the reports that went broadcast over the country that the town was washed away.

A small section of the Memphis-Bristol highway opposite Elizabethton was flooded, but not much damage done.

## DAYTON NOW HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL GEORGE H. WOOD EXPLAINS SYSTEM OF THE

### NATIONAL MILITARY HOMES

17,000 VETERANS IN THE VARIOUS BRANCHES AT PRESENT

When the board of managers of national homes for disabled volunteer soldiers decided to make Dayton their headquarters some time ago, this city became the hub of a great wheel, the spokes of which radiate into nearly every state in the Union. A military system, controlling an army of over 17,000 veterans, is directed by Gen. George H. Wood from his office in the Soldiers' Home hotel. Under his guidance, in connection with the administrative policy of the board of managers, 10 national homes, scattered from Maine to California, and 31 state homes, in each of the northern states with the exception of Utah and Maine, are controlled.

To a reporter General Wood explained the extent of the great charitable system by means of which the federal government cares for its disabled defenders of other days. "The board of managers consists of seven officers from various sections of the country, the president, chief justice of the supreme court, and the secretary of war being members ex-officio. Congress selects the officers, and these in turn select a president, who has his headquarters at the central branch.

"All the work of managing the various homes passes through the headquarters in Dayton. We also have indirect supervision over the state homes, the value of which I can suggest to you by mentioning the fact that congress places in the hands of the board of managers \$1,500,000 to be paid out by them for maintenance.

"The officers of the board of managers forms the executive court. At present that court consists of the president of the board of managers, the general treasurer, Col. C. W. Wadsworth; the assistant general treasurer, Lieut. Col. M. H. Spanier; the inspector general, Col. James E. Miller, and the assistant inspector, Lieut. Col. O. K. Marshall.

"At each of the quarterly meetings, reports on visits of inspections of the various national homes are made and the policy of the coming quarter is outlined. All these meetings take place in Dayton now.

"Just to give you an idea of the value of the homes, let me tell you that the appropriations for maintenance average \$5,000,000 yearly. There are 17,000 veterans in the homes at present, one-fifth of whom are former soldiers of the Spanish-American and Philippine campaigns.

"Many people have felt that the time was drawing near when the homes would have to be abandoned or converted into parks. There were 400,000 soldiers in the campaigns of '98 and the years that followed, only one per cent of whom are now in homes. Many of these will have to be cared for in the future, and of course, congress will soon have to treat with the problem of what is to be done with disabled soldiers from the present Mexican campaign. In passing, it is worth while noting that the American government is the only one which is so considerate of the lives of those who have once fought for it. No government has made such splendid provision for veterans, and it is given entirely in addition to the pension members receive.

"If you care for a few statistics, jot these down: In the ten national homes there are 8,680 acres of land. The cost of the buildings was \$12,000,000. Since the first home was built, up to the present time, 133,000 men have become members of the homes. Of these, 54,000 have died in the homes.

"One of the most important features of the management of the homes is the question of hospital facilities. In the ten branches there are 3,000 patients at present, and there are probably from 1,500 to 2,000 who are ill in the quarters. Special facilities for hospital work have been established in each branch, and tubercular hospitals are in operation where those who are suffering from the white plague can receive the most modern scientific treatment, at the central branch in Dayton, the Pacific branch in California, the Mountain branch in Tennessee, and at the Battle Mountain sanitarium in South Dakota.

### VIRGINIA & SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY IS ABSORBED

Becomes Appalachian Division of the Southern—Offices Will be Maintained in City of Bristol

Bristol, Tenn., July 18.—The Virginia and Southwestern railway, for a number of years controlled by the Southern railway company, has at last been abolished, and is now a part of the general system of railroads owned by that company. This formal change is announced, following conferences in the general offices of the Southern railway in Washington, in which General Agent J. M. McCue of the Virginia and Southwestern, and General Counsel H. H. Shelton, of the same properties, participated.

The Virginia and Southwestern and its branch lines, including the St. Charles extension, the Tennessee division between Bristol and Mountain City, and the Holston river lines, now becomes a division of the Southern, to be known, it is stated, as the "Appalachian division." Bristol is made the headquarters of the division, and divisional offices will be maintained here.

If any part of the general offices of the Virginia and Southwestern railway is moved to Washington, it will be only that portion relating to the audit system.

J. H. McCue is retained as general agent of the new division, with offices here, while Walter E. Allen, for many years general traffic manager of the V. & S. W. railway, becomes traffic manager of the new division.

The change is already effective, and the local employees of the V. & S. W. properties are shaping their affairs accordingly.

The Virginia and Southwestern lines are declared to be among the most paying of the entire system. Their consolidation with the general system of the Southern in conformity to the purpose announced here by President Fairfax Harrison more than a year ago, when he said his policy was to gradually straighten all units of the system, with a view to making the properties as a whole the more secure and promising.

### JONESBORO WANTS NEW PASSENGER DEPOT

Jonesboro, July 18.—The citizens of Jonesboro have a petition in circulation, the purpose of which is to ask the Southern railway to erect a passenger depot separate and apart from the present one, it being used as a freight depot.

The following committee has been appointed by the chairman of the county court to present a report recommending a location of a new asylum and to procure plans and specifications for the same: J. W. Crumley, G. C. Horn, D. A. Markwood, W. P. Shipley, A. A. Deakins and C. C. Menzler; Mrs. S. H. L. Cooper and Mrs. H. L. White.

### MAJOR REEVES OFF FOR NASHVILLE

On receipt of a telegram from the adjutant general at Camp Tom C. Rye Major Lee Ray Reeves left here on train No. 25 on Tuesday afternoon for Nashville, where he reported for duty on Wednesday morning.

### BUSINESS GETS BETTER IN KINGSFORT

Kingsport is growing and as the town grows business in all lines improves. New business houses open their doors almost daily and all lines are represented in Kingsport. In conversation with some of the leading business concerns of the city, The Times reporter was informed that business was never better in the history of these establishments. Proving the fact that competition in all lines improves and makes trade.

Kingsport is a great trade center and draws trade from several counties. Farmers realize that they can get any article they need in Kingsport, besides this market offers highest price for farm products. The various manufacturers employ hundreds of laborers and those laborers must live, hence this happy condition affords a good market and brings a smile to the farmer that wont wear off. We know of no reason why Kingsport should not continue to grow.

Work is now going on for the construction of a tubercular hospital with a capacity for 100 patients in Dayton, following its authorization by act of congress. The majority of those suffering from tuberculosis are veterans of the Philippine campaigns. "Dayton is also the center of the manufacture of uniforms and shoes for the veterans. The majority of this work is done at home by widows, children and dependents of the old soldiers, and provides them with another means of income apart from their pensions."—Dayton (O.) Daily News.

## WOULD CUT TAXES DOWN

COL. KING COMMENTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

### HOPES FOR A BIG VOTE

IF DEFEATED WILL BE TWENTY YEARS BEFORE REVIVED

"An improved constitution would certainly reduce the tax assessment rate in Tennessee and at the same time equalize the property taxes," said Col. Sam L. King, of Bristol, while in this city. Col. King owns property in Bristol, Va., as well as in Bristol, Tenn., and he states that the difference in the rate between the two cities has made a great difference in the valuation of their real estate. "I am heartily in favor of holding a constitutional convention," said he. Then Col. King asserted that here are many changes needed in the Tennessee constitution in order to bring this state up to its proper place. "We are behind in many respects," stated the visitor, "and I am anything but proud of some of the conditions which exist in this state as he result of an antiquated constitution. I do not believe a word of this talk about vested interests directing the movement for a new constitution, but if I did I'd take off my hat to the vested interests. It has been explained numberless times that the citizenship of the state will have an opportunity to reject each and every one of the amendments which may be formulated by the body of the people's representatives elected for the purpose of drawing them up. With such a system prevailing, I do not see but what the will of the majority will rule and heretofore this has always been satisfactory."

Separate ballot boxes and separate tickets will be used in voting for or against holding the constitutional convention. The election will take place at the time of the general election, August 3. Non-partisan organizations are being perfected in the different counties throughout the state to explain the purposes of the convention and the need of a new constitution. The Constitutional Convention league of Knox county has organized the counties composing the first and second congressional districts. Their efforts are meeting with great success and leagues are being established throughout East Tennessee as a result of their efforts.

"The people of East Tennessee are just beginning to realize that this movement is not a cloak to cover up the designs of any group of politicians," is the assertion of one of the most widely known politicians in this section. He continued: "There has been talk of politics and trusts and railroads in connection with the proposed election. I know of no reason why there should have been this talk except that the movement has enemies who started it for no good purpose. When people ask who is behind the move, just tell them that holders of fee offices, and those who hope to hold such offices, all who have been fee grabbers and those who are their friends are fighting against it, and, so far as I know, everyone else is for it."

Every effort is being made by those interested in the development of the state to secure a large vote at the election. An official of the Knox county league said Tuesday that the biggest obstacle which friends of the movement have to contend with is the ignorance of the voters as to the importance of the coming election. "If the convention is voted down at this time," asserted one man, "it will be twenty years before the people of the state progress enough to revive the movement. There is every reason for holding the convention and none against it."—Knoxville Sentinel.

### COUNTY FAIR FOR KINGSFORT THIS FALL

Kingsport is to have a county fair this fall, so say some of Kingsport's leading citizens. The Times editor has talked to a number of our business men and all are enthusiastic over the proposition, and will do all they can toward making the fair a success. The Times hopes to be in position to publish the date and details of the fair in the very near future. Let every one get busy and let's have a fair at Kingsport this fall second to none in the state.

## PLANS UPSET AT CAMP RYE

NO TROOPS MOVE UNTIL THEY ARE FULLY EQUIPPED

### MEANS DELAY OF WEEKS

TENNESSEE'S SOLDIERS ROUNDING INTO FINE FORM

Nashville, Tenn., July 16.—The indications are that we will be here for fifteen days more at least," said Col. Carey P. Spence today upon receipt of a telegram from Adjutant-General Simpson stating that all troops will be fully equipped before going to the Mexican border.

The order from Gen. Simpson has upset the plans of the whole camp, instead of leaving for the border on Tuesday or Wednesday, the Tennessee troops will remain at Camp Tom C. Rye for fifteen or many more days. It all depends upon how soon Uncle Sam can furnish "full equipment" which means for the most part, two of everything with which the troops now are supplied with but one.

Before the order can be issued to entrain the camp must be supplied with 1,500 pairs of shoes, 800 ponchos, 1,500 shirts, 2,000 suits of underwear and several thousand pairs of socks and there is nobody at Camp Rye willing to make a guess as to how soon the extra equipment will reach here.

A carload of equipment which has arrived at the camp by express contained 700 coats and several hundred shelter tents. Thirty or more perambulator tents are needed.

The fact that they are delayed in going to the border does not mean that the troops will have nothing to do for the next two weeks or more. They will put in an average of seven hours a day drilling and getting worked into shape for active service.

Urd how rapidly the Tennessee Guardsmen are being whipped into condition can be attested by those who visited the camp today and witnessed the soldiers as they passed in review before Col. Spence and compared them with the soldiers reviewed two weeks ago. Swinging along in perfect step they bore but the slightest resemblance to the 2,500 men in nondescript attire that wound around the race track two weeks ago.

The battalion drill of the Nashville battalion demonstrated more fully the result of the two weeks training. The four Nashville companies had the appearance of regular army men as they were put through the battalion formations and the usual manual of arms by Major Harry S. Berry, commanding. They were cheered by the visitors in the grandstand as they went through the formations with clock-like precision.

There were between four and five thousand visitors out to the band concert and the drill review, and many stayed on until after 6 o'clock to see Troop B mount guard for first time. The band composed of the First Tennessee and the Third Tennessee regimental bands and Madame Frederic Von Stechow's band was directed by Madame Von Stechow.

The battalion drill was held at four o'clock, immediately after which the soldiers were reviewed by Col. Spence and his adjutant, Capt. Wywick. The troops marched once around the race track in full marching order and were reviewed from in front of the grandstand.

The troops were led by Lieut.-Col. Gleason in command of the Third regiment and his adjutant, Lieut. Pyffe. Troop B, unattached, followed the Third and behind it came the first provisional regiment led by Lieut. Colonel elect Terry, former major of the first battalion. The troops were very heartily applauded. The Red Cross also received much applause as it passed the grandstand. Troop B, mounted guards this afternoon for the first time it has been in camp and by unanimous consent it was agreed that the cavalrymen are the best that have appeared in that role.

### BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, GETS POSTOFFICE BUILDING

Bristol, July 19.—Bristol, Va., will have an \$80,000 postoffice by the passage yesterday in both houses of the postoffice appropriations bill, which carried that amount for a public building here. From \$20,000 to \$25,000 of the Bristol appropriation will be used, it is thought, in purchasing a site for the building. The bill has gone to the president for approval.